

Chapter 4

How Do I Love Thee?

Why Annie Didn't Feel Loved

Memory Verse

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.;" John 3:16 (NKJV)

She should have been having fun with her friends, but Annie seemed a bit too sad to play that day. Instead of playing hopscotch with Olivia and Sophia, Annie just sat on the bench, gazing at the ground.

That morning, Annie couldn't find the barrette she needed for her hair... or the homework she did the night before... or one of the socks she wanted to wear. Her mom was in a hurry and it seemed like nothing was going right.

On the way to school, Annie's mom sounded like she was upset. She told Annie she needed to be more responsible and keep up with her things so they wouldn't spend so much time looking searching for them when they had somewhere to go.

Annie thought her mom was angry and that she didn't love her anymore because she had messed up.

While sitting in class that morning, Annie's best friend, Ava, told her she didn't want to talk to her anymore. For some strange reason, someone had told Ava that Annie didn't want to be her friend. It wasn't true. Annie loved Ava. They had been best



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friends for as long as she could remember. So, when Ava told Annie she didn't want to talk to her anymore, it broke her heart and she felt like Ava didn't like her any longer.

Sometimes, when our parents are upset or our friends seem to be angry with us, we can feel like they don't like us any more...even like they don't love us.

But when someone is upset, it can mean a lot of things are going on in their lives. But it doesn't mean they don't like us. And it doesn't mean they quit loving us.

Maybe they feel stressed out because they are going through something sad or hard. They might be tired, or frustrated, or worried.

Love isn't like a water facet. It's not something that is easily turned on or off. True love is unconditional love. That means it isn't based on what you do or don't do. You are loved because you are uniquely you.

God loves you like that. Unconditionally. It is good for you to obey Him and His Word, but if you mess up... if you sin, God doesn't love you any less. He still loves you just the same.

Sometimes, you may not feel loved, but that doesn't mean you aren't. Your feelings will change throughout your life. Sometimes you will feel really happy. Sometimes, you will feel really sad. Other times, you will feel overwhelmed. But your feelings don't determine how God feels about you.

God loves you every single day of your life!

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Isn't that good to know that no matter what, God loves you?

Questions for Kids:

- Describe a time when you may have felt as if you were loved less?
- How does knowing that God loves you always, no matter what, may you feel?
- How can we pray for you today?

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- * ***How Do I Love Thee? - Why Annie Didn't Feel Loved*** is a story that was written to accompany ***The Making of a Mom*** by Stephanie Shott through Revell Publishing. ***How Do I Love Thee?*** accompanies Chapter 1 of ***The Making of a Mom*** and is to be used to minister to children during KIDs Group while their moms are in their MOM Group.
 - * Additional resources are available to help foster this chapter's life lesson in the hearts of children. Please see KIDs Group Resources for more resources for this and other chapters written for children that will parallel ***The Making of a Mom***.
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